

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 15, 2005. Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-15 and 19 are presented for examination. Claims 16-18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 3, 7, 10, 14, 15 and 19 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13-15 and 19.

The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,943,140 (Monroe) in view of United States Patent No. 6,888,796 (Iizuka). Claims 16-18 have all been cancelled, and the remaining claims have been allowed, as noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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